Funds for Power Sector

683. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government has set up a panel consisting of Group of Ministers of examine the possibility of bringing funding for power under priority-sector-lending by banks and to examine financing issues including upgrading of power transmission and distribution networks;

(b) whether it has also been estimated that about $100 billion are required for the power sector during the Eleventh Five Year Plan and nearly $40 billion would be needed for upgrading of T&D network; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made and the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) In the Conference of Chief Ministers on power sector issues held on 28.05.2007, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced constitution of a Sub-Committee of the Standing Group of Power Ministers to look at financing issues particularly for upgrading transmission and distribution networks.

Accordingly, a Sub-Committee of the Group of Ministers has been constituted to look at financing issues, particularly for upgrading transmission and distribution networks. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee inter-alia, include making appropriate recommendations on the issues relating to identification of the specific needs of transmission, sub-transmission and distribution and the possibility of including power sector funding under priority sector lending. The first meeting of the Sub-Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 17.10.2007. The Sub-Committee is yet to submit its recommendations.

The Working Group on Power for the XI Plan had estimated that the fund requirement for the power sector will be over Rs. 10,63,000 crore for the XI Plan period which, inter-alia, includes about Rs. 1,40,000 crore for transmission systems and over Rs. 3,09,000 crore for sub-transmission and distribution systems.

Supply of Power to Andhra Pradesh

684. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government for allocation of 258 MW power unallocated power from Southern Region as per its due and additional 250 MW power from Eastern Region and North-Eastern Region to meet the acute shortage of power in the State;

(b) the response of Government thereto;

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the requested allocation of powr to the State; and

(d) by when this request of the State Government is likely to be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) Requests were received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the months of August and September, 2007 for allocation of additional 293-300 MW power from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations (CGSs) in the Southern Region and 250 MW power from Eastern Region

and North-Eastern Region. The State of Andhra Pradesh has been allocated the maximum quantum of 328 to 418 MW out of the unallocated quota of CGSs of Southern Region. As an additional allocation of 100MW and 43 top 133 MW was provided to Andhra Pradesh in January and April, 2007, it was not feasible to further enhance the allocation for Andhra Pradesh keeping in view its relative power supply position and its under drawal from the grid during April-August, 2007 to the tune of 17 million units.

Timely completion of Power Projects

685. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, faced with a daunting prospect of adding 78,577 MW power generating capacity during the current Plan period, Government has fixed stringent time-lines for placement of orders and project execution;

(b) if so, whether projects totaling a capacity of around 52,365 MW are currently under execution, most are slippages from the last Plan period; and

(c) whether newly formed national Power Project Management Board, set up to assist State and Central utilities to ensure timely completion of projects, has been asked to ensure that the balance capacity of 22,632 MW by Central and State power utilities is done by December this year?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The majority of the projects included in the capacity addition of 78,577 MW proposed during 11th Five Year Plan are such which have been originally envisaged to give benefit during the 11th Plan itself. Out of the envisaged capacity addition of 78,577 MW proposed during 11th Plan, projects totalling 4,590 MW have been commissioned as on 20.11.2007 and projects totalling 50,855 MW are under construction. In addition, 4434 MW capacity from additional projects is also currently under construction. To ensure that the envisaged capacity comes up during the 11th Plan period, State Government and the Central Utilities have been advised to expeditiously complete the process of placement of awards.

(c) The primarly function of the Power Project Monitoring Panel is envisaged to monitor the progress of the XI Plan thermal and hydro power projects and their Associated Transmission System. It will also facilitate the identification of bottlenecks and suggest remedial measures for timely project commissioning.

Use of CFLs

†686. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 20 per cent less electricity is consumed by using Compact Flourscent Lamps (CFLs);

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government to encourage the use of CFLs;

(c) the facilities provided to the CFL industry to meet the increasing demand of this lamp; and

(d) by when these lamps are likely to be used in the entire country in view of the demand and supply of these lamps in the future?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.